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NEWS RELEASE

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Newport Superintendent Hired to Direct Progressive Support and Intervention at RIDE

PROVIDENCE – Former Newport Superintendent of Schools Mary C. Canole, Ed. D., begins work this week as the Director of Progressive Support and Intervention, at the R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE).

In this newly created position, Dr. Canole will coordinate the department efforts to bring support to schools and districts that have been classified as in need of improvement. She will also lead and administer the department's implementation of corrective action and restructuring in schools and districts.

Corrective action and restructuring, as defined in federal law, are steps that RIDE must take to ensure school improvement when schools or districts miss their annual targets for several consecutive years.

Before coming to RIDE, Dr. Canole worked in the Newport School Department for 21 years. She began her career as a consumer-science and culinary-arts teacher and later served as the director of the Newport Area Vocational Technical Center and the Director of Instruction and Grants. She served as superintendent of the Newport Public Schools from 2001 until taking her current position at RIDE.

Under her stewardship, the Newport School District made significant improvements. The district previously had four schools in the state's lowest performance classification; now it has none. This year the district became the first in the state to be meet its targets for two years in a row and be removed from "intervention status."

Dr. Canole has a bachelor's degree in home economics/education from Syracuse University, master's degrees from the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College, and a doctorate of education in educational leadership from Johnson & Wales University.

She has served as secretary and as vice-president of the Rhode Island School Superintendents Association, and she has been adjunct professor at both Johnson & Wales and Roger Williams University. In 1997, Dr. Canole received a Milken Family Foundation Educator Award and in 1994 she received a Claiborne deB. Pell Award for outstanding service to career-and-technical education.

